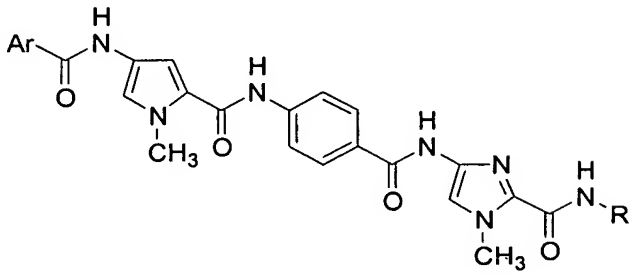
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound according to formula (I)



(I)

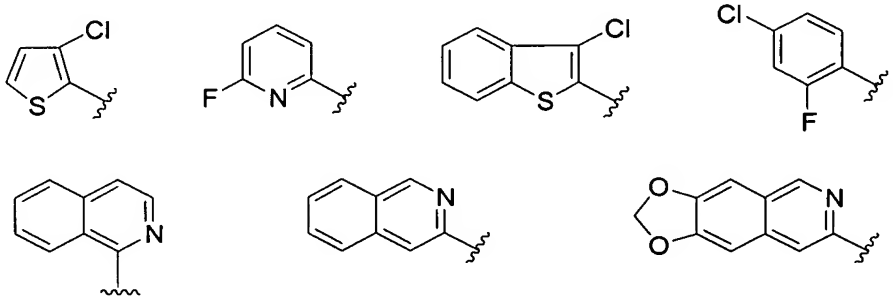
and the solvates, prodrugs, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

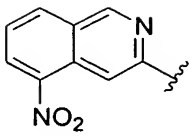
Ar is an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl group, an unsubstituted or substituted 5-member heteroaryl group, an unsubstituted or substituted 6-member heteroaryl group, an unsubstituted or substituted 6,6-condensed ring aryl or heteroaryl group, an unsubstituted or substituted 5,5-condensed ring heteroaryl group; an unsubstituted or substituted 5,7-condensed ring aryl or heteroaryl group, or an unsubstituted or substituted 6,5-condensed ring heteroaryl group; and

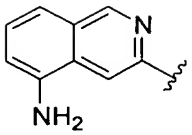
R is a C_1 to C_{28} alkyl or heteroalkyl moiety containing a basic group having a pK_b of 12 or less or a quaternized nitrogen group.

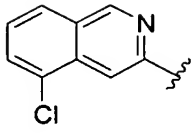
2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar is an unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, furanyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, furazanyl, 1,2,3-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, thienyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, triazinyl, naphthyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, benzothienyl, indolyl, or benzofuranyl group.

3. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar is selected from the group consisting of

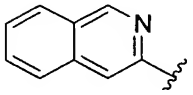




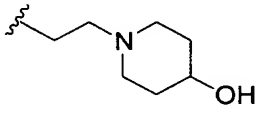


and


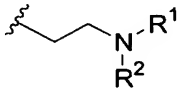
4. A compound according to claim 3, wherein Ar is



5. A compound according to claim 4, wherein R is

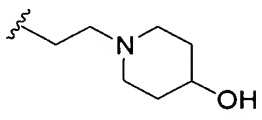


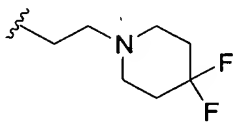
6. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R is

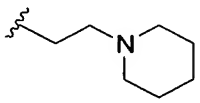


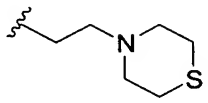
where R^1 and R^2 independently are C_1 to C_{16} alkyl or heteroalkyl moieties and may join together to form, together with the nitrogen to which they are bound, a 5 to 7 member ring.

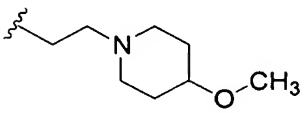
7. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of

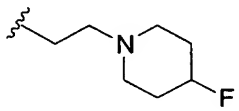


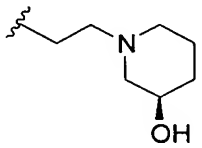


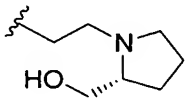


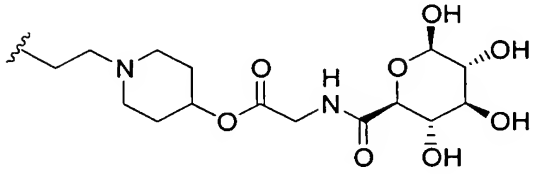


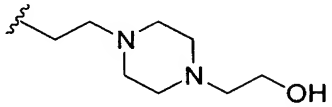










and


8. A compound according to claim 1, having a minimum inhibitory concentration of 4 μg/mL or less against at least one of *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 27660), *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (ATCC 49619), and *Enterococcus faecium* (ATCC 29212).

9. A method of treating a bacterial infection in a mammal, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

10. A method according to claim 7, wherein the bacterial infection is an infection by drug resistant bacteria.

11. The use of a compound according to claim 1 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a bacterial infection in a mammal.